

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Turkey/Bulgaria/Russia

DATE DISTR. 25 April 1948

SUBJECT Soviet Propaganda Spread in Turkey  
by Bulgarian Diplomatic Representatives

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DATE SENT

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. [REDACTED] the Bulgarian diplomatic mission to Turkey has been instructed by Sofia to launch propaganda to the effect that Russia neither wants nor finds it to her interest to initiate war. [REDACTED] contacts in the Bulgarian Consulate have made no attempt to conceal the fact that the opinions they express and the rumors they are spreading are based on specific instructions received in Sofia from Moscow. [REDACTED] Moscow feels a peace campaign is very necessary at this time, as a show of aggressiveness on the part of the Soviet Government might influence the Italian elections unfavorably by throwing the left wing of the Italian Socialist Party into the anti-Communist group. In addition to this, certain groups in France and Finland, now favorably inclined toward Russia, might well be drawn into the camp of the Anglo-Saxon powers.

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2. [REDACTED] certain Bulgarian officials in Turkey have made public and semi-public statements in line with this campaign. [REDACTED] the following:

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- Varban Angelov, Bulgarian Minister to Turkey, at a conference with various members of the Bulgarian Consulate General in Istanbul, explained that Russia is not planning military operations against Turkey at this time, and that the rumors in circulation regarding Russia's hostile intentions are part of a propaganda campaign originating in Washington.
- Nedelcho Manev, Bulgarian Commercial Attaché, stated a few days later that the Soviet Government was firmly attached to the cause of peace and would only be drawn into a war by direct provocation.
- Blagoy Poppyordanov, Chancellor of the Bulgarian Consulate General in Istanbul and recently returned from a visit to Sofia, said that the consensus in the Bulgarian capital is that Russia does not want to instigate a conflict at this time and that her entire energy is taken up with the job of consolidating her political and economic position in the non-Russian territories she now controls.

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25X1X 3. [REDACTED] the following factors have some bearing on this policy:

- a. The appointment of Alexander Lavrishchev as Soviet Ambassador to Ankara. This appointment has been interpreted in certain quarters as the signal for renewed political pressure against the Turkish Government similar to the pressure policies applied in Czechoslovakia and Finland. Source says that the propaganda Vartan Angelov and his cohorts are spreading is primarily aimed at reassuring Turkish political circles.
- b. This propaganda campaign in Turkey is probably one phase of an over-all Russian effort which includes the publically announced demobilization of all reserve classes in the Soviet Army with the exception of those which would normally be called up at this time and is a concerted drive on the part of Russia and her satellites to give the impression that while Washington feverishly prepares for war, Moscow is as feverishly preserving the peace.

25X1X 5. [REDACTED] Soviet and Bulgarian diplomatic circles believe that Russia will use this peace line for at least two years because she needs this time in order to consolidate her newly acquired spheres of influence. These circles also believe that Russia wishes to convince the United States that she has only peaceful intentions, in order to make the latter feel that an aggressive policy is unnecessary, or to create so much popular opposition to such a policy that any government sponsoring it would lose prestige. Meanwhile, Russia will continue to strengthen her industry and system of communications and to develop her mineral resources.

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